

From: Sharp, Daniel B.
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2011 3:53 PM
Subject: Sediment Management Task Force

To our potential Task Force partners,

The LA County Flood Control District (LACFCD) is organizing a Task Force to develop sediment management approaches that support the continued operation of the region's dams and debris basins while minimizing impact to the environment and surrounding communities. The first meeting of this Task Force will be Monday, January 31, 2011. You will be receiving a formal invitation in the mail shortly. However, since January 31st is approaching fast, we wanted to notify via email also.

The LACFCD operates 14 major dams as part of the region's flood management and water-conservation system. Sediment erodes from the mountains and impacts the operations at these facilities in two ways. First, it reduces a dam's ability to manage peak-storm flows, potentially affecting flood protection for downstream communities. Second, it takes up space in the reservoir that would otherwise be used to capture stormwater. Capturing stormwater is essential to the local water supply as it is used to recharge local groundwater basins and provides up to one-third of the local water supply.

The LACFCD also manages numerous debris basins. Debris basins capture sediment and debris that erode from the mountains before it enters the flood control system. This protects adjacent communities from debris flows. It also protects downstream communities by ensuring the flood control system operates as designed.

Sediment removed from dams and debris basins is currently managed by transporting it to Sediment Placement Sites (SPSs) on local hillsides. The capacity of the SPSs is being rapidly diminished due to the sediment that has eroded and will continue to erode. Therefore, we would like to work together with local and regional stakeholders to develop additional methods of dealing with sediment in a sustainable manner – taking economic, social, and environmental impacts into account.

Your participation in the Task Force is crucial to developing a comprehensive Sediment Management Strategic Plan that will address the region's long-term sediment needs while considering local and environmental issues as well. The first meeting will be held on Monday, January 31, 2011, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Headquarters located at 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803. The Task Force will meet several more times as the plan is developed over the year. Please RSVP by Thursday, January 24, 2011.

We look forward to working with you on this effort. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

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